

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

17. (Amended) A hybrid fragment of tetanus toxin comprising a fragment C and a fragment B or a fraction of fragment B having at least 11 amino acid residues, wherein the hybrid fragment is capable of transferring *in vivo* a protein, a peptide, or a polynucleotide through a neuromuscular junction and at least one synapse.

B2  
18. (Amended) A hybrid fragment of tetanus toxin comprising a fragment C and a fragment B or a fraction of fragment B having at least 11 amino acid residues and a fraction of a fragment A devoid of its toxic activity corresponding to the proteolytic domain having a zinc-binding motif located in the central part of the chain between amino acids 225 and 245, wherein the hybrid fragment is capable of transferring *in vivo* a protein, a peptide or a polynucleotide through a neuromuscular junction and at least one synapse.

19. (Amended) An amino acid variant fragment of the hybrid fragment of tetanus toxin according to claim 17, wherein the variant fragment retains the capability of transferring *in vivo* a protein, a peptide, or a polynucleotide through a neuromuscular junction and at least one synapse.

23. (Amended) The composition according to claim 21, wherein the active molecule is a polynucleotide encoding a protein.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

467474\_1